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new trail

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In this issue, *Trail* staffer Dave Norwood completes his study of the controversial reorganization of the provincial Department of Advanced Education . . . economist Tom Powrie looks at the oil export tax . . . Richard Kerr captures a sense of the campus in winter.

new trail

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Second Class Mail—Registration Number 3244

A case for the blue-eyed Arabs?

Several weeks ago *Trail* received an irate letter from an engineering graduate in Toronto demanding that his name be removed from our mailing list because, he said, he was as uninterested in Alberta as Alberta was in the rest of Canada. After wondering for the better part of a day just what heinous thing the University or *Trail* or I had done to him, the idea dawned that he must be talking about oil. (This was before the real oil crisis had begun, or the Arab-Israeli war, or the Arab oil blockade.)

Oil, since 1947, has played a starring role in Alberta's economy. Quite possibly, the province's oil resources are a major reason for The University of Alberta growing rather suddenly during the fifties and sixties into one of the top three or four universities in Canada. Now oil seems to be at the centre of world economics, and Albertans—perhaps more precisely the government of Alberta—have become the villains, the "blue-eyed Arabs," as they have been called on Bay Street, at least insofar as the rest of Canada is concerned. When Eastern Canadians are facing petroleum shortages and price rises, Alberta's concern for its royalties must seem to them a little shortsighted and even miserly. What was once strictly business has become emotional, perhaps, in fact, too emotional for people to look beyond their cold homes or investment losses (depending upon where they live) to larger issues of economics and conservation.

Of course, neither *New Trail* nor The University of Alberta has any power to formulate government policies, in Alberta or in Ottawa, so perhaps the fury of our Toronto alumnus was a bit misdirected.

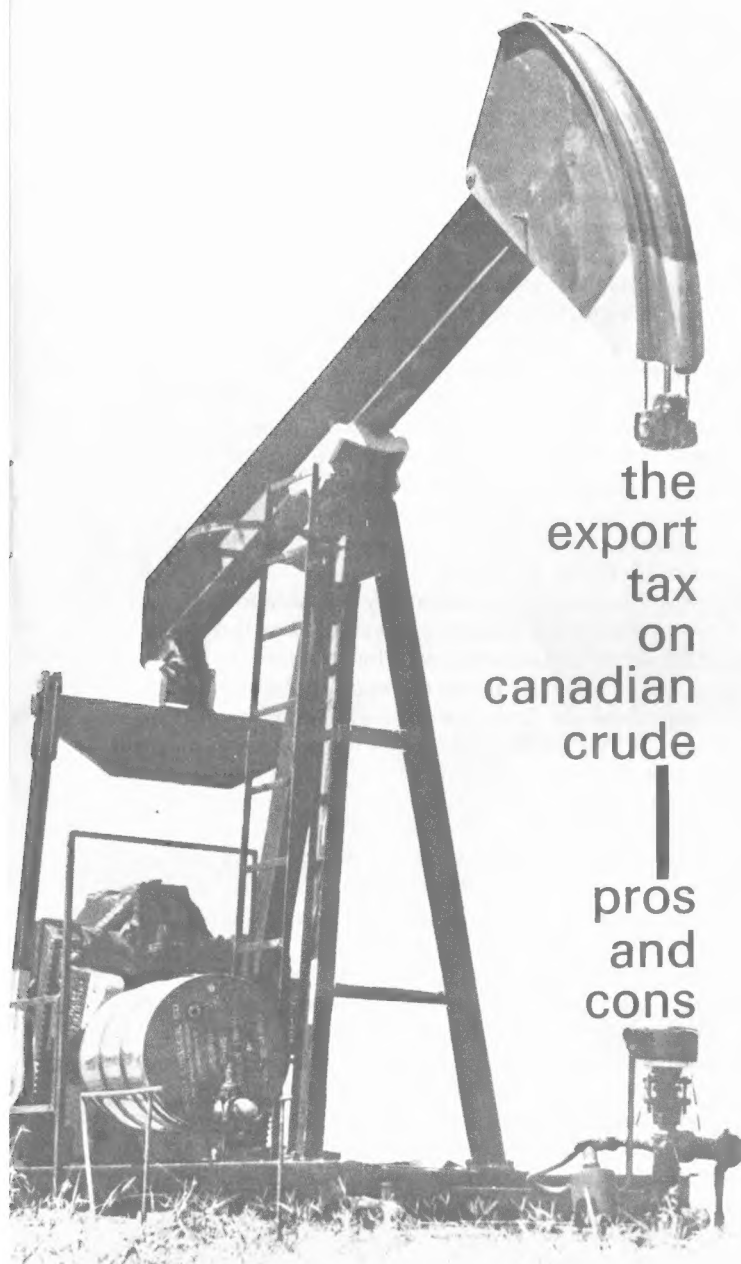
The article in this issue by economist Tom Powrie sets the oil export tax, in perspective, queries whether indeed lower consumer prices for domestic oil in Canada are a good idea, and provides a fairly plausible if conditional argument in favor of the "blue-eyed Arabs." His views, though, are his own and not necessarily shared by *New Trail* or by the University.

Jeanette Rothrock

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the export tax on canadian crude — pros and cons

By T. L. Powrie, Professor of Economics

The effect of an export tax on Canadian crude oil is to prevent the Canadian price from rising to the level prevailing in the American export market. The federal government introduced a 40 cent a barrel export tax in November, and has subsequently increased it, as U.S. prices rose while the domestic Canadian price remained frozen.

There are two direct benefits of the tax to Canadians: Canadian consumers of Canadian oil are protected from rising world prices, and the federal government acquires tax revenues. The Canadian consumers who benefit do not include those in Quebec or the Atlantic provinces, because they are reliant on imported oil at world prices (except for the limited extent to which prairie oil is now entering Quebec on an emergency basis).

The cost of the export tax is, of course, that wellhead prices of all Canadian oil are correspondingly lower; the price of oil in Canada at the wellhead equals the U.S. export price, unless there is an export tax, in which case the Canadian price is the U.S. export price minus the amount of the export tax. Table 2 on the next page shows the distribution of this burden on the basis of approximate proportions. If provincial royalties are 22 percent of the wellhead prices (roughly the new royalty rate introduced a year ago by Alberta), provincial treasuries, mainly Alberta's, will lose 22 cents on every dollar of oil export tax levied. Considering 5 percent as the effective rate of corporate income tax on crude oil production (a low rate because of exploration incentives in the tax structure), Canadian governments would lose revenue from this source at 5 percent of the 78 cent barrel loss after royalties. Of the remaining 74 cent loss per barrel on a \$1 per barrel export tax, 80 percent falls to foreign shareholders and 20 percent to Canadian shareholders.

Of all the redistributions of income involved in this simplified picture of the effects of an export tax, let us look further at three: first, the shift of income from foreign shareholders to Canadians; second, the saving to Canadian consumers resulting from lower prices; and third, the appropriation by the federal government of potential provincial government revenue.

The export tax has a strong direct effect on increasing the national income of Canada at the expense of foreign shareholders in the oil industry, in that it appropriates what would otherwise be extra profits to them. The risk involved in appropriating these profits is that exploration for and development of new oil, especially the more costly Arctic oil and tar sands oil, may be retarded so that future shortages are created.

There are two rather separate arguments why higher oil prices are needed as a spur to exploration. First, as lower cost supplies are exhausted, the price must rise to cover the cost of more remote or otherwise more costly supplies. Second, and less convincing, it is often argued that the oil industry needs high profits on already discovered oil in order to finance its necessarily huge expenditures on further exploration and development. This second argument ignores alternative sources of finance; for example, governments could collect these profits as taxes or royalties and lend them back to industry, with the advantage that the ownership of this wealth would then be in Canadian hands. The export tax is a way of collecting for Canada the windfall profits on already discovered oil and could be defended on that basis; but it is a harmful way of doing it to the extent that it prevents the price increases needed to bring forth new oil.

The export tax also benefits those Canadian consumers who do not use imported oil. Of course, this is not a free benefit: it is paid for with money that would otherwise become provincial royalties, or income tax revenue, or profits available for exploration expenditure or development of new energy sources.

Is it in fact desirable to keep down the price of oil? In order to reduce hardship and disruption, it may well

Table 1. Sources and Destinations of Crude Oil, Canada, 1972 (in millions of barrels)

Destinations	Sources			
	Alberta	Other Canada	Canada Imports	Total
Alberta	53.6			53.6
Other western Canada	45.5	36.6	82.1	82.1
Ontario	98.7	38.8	137.5	0.4 137.9
Quebec				191.1 191.1
Atlantic provinces				97.2 97.2
Inventory, etc.	4.3	-4.5	-0.2	-0.2
Total Canada	202.2	70.9	273.1	288.8 561.8
Exports to U.S.	300.3	48.1	348.4	348.4
Total	502.5	119.0	621.5	288.8 910.2

Source: Statistics Canada, *Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas Production* (monthly), December, 1972.

Table 2. Redistribution of Income Caused by Export Tax of \$1.00 per Barrel on Crude Oil (in millions of dollars)

	Other			Total
	Alberta	Canada	Foreign	
<i>Direct benefits of export tax</i>				
Saving to consumers from lower price	\$ 53.6	\$219.5		\$273.1
Federal government revenue from export tax	*	*		\$348.4
Total	*	*		\$621.5
<i>Direct costs of export tax</i>				
Loss of provincial government royalties (at 22%)	\$110.6	\$ 26.2		\$136.7
Loss of corporate income tax collections from oil industry	*	*		\$ 24.2
Loss to Canadian shareholders	*	*		\$ 92.1
Loss to foreign shareholders			\$368.5	\$368.5
Total	*	*	\$368.5	\$621.5

* The distribution of these items between Alberta and the rest of Canada is not known.

These two tables are helpful to an understanding of the oil export tax question. Table 1 gives the pattern of supply and use of crude oil in Canada in 1972. The 1973 pattern will be somewhat different in the face of the oil imports crisis of recent weeks, but the 1973 figures were not available at the time of publication. Table 2 shows the effects, given 1972 volumes of shipments, of an export tax of \$1.00 per barrel; the effects of any actual tax rate can be found by simple multiplication.

be desirable to keep this price from rising as rapidly as it has in recent months on world markets. But the price should rise. Higher prices, substantially higher prices, are the most effective way of encouraging conservation of this increasingly scarce resource. Voluntary self-restraint in the use of oil and its products succeeds only temporarily and inequitably, if at all. Government rationing is cumbersome and inefficient. Higher prices work.

The third redistribution to be discussed from Table 2 is the appropriation into federal export tax revenue of what is potentially provincial, largely Albertan, royalties. The potential cost to the Alberta treasury is considerably greater than indicated in Table 2, where the current royalty rate of 22 percent is used in the calculation. But new legislation has just been introduced in the Alberta legislature to permit flexible royalties, at rates not yet specified but with no ceiling.

How much money is potentially available to the Alberta treasury if it collects in royalties *all* of the revenue that would be released by a withdrawal by the federal government of \$1 per barrel of export tax? On the 1972 volumes shown in Table 1, it would be the extraordinary amount of \$502.5 million, an amount that is equal to about one-third of the entire present provincial budget. It consists not only of the recaptured export tax of \$1 a barrel on exported oil, but also of the extra \$1 per barrel that Canadian consumers would be paying as a result of the removal of that amount of the export tax. (And the present export tax is over \$2, so the potential bonanza is over \$1,000 million per year at current rates.)

Should the Alberta treasury have access to this amount of additional income, or should the benefits go, through the mechanism of a continuing export tax, partly to the federal government and partly to Canadian consumers in the form of low prices? The answer must depend mainly on one's judgment about who will use the revenue most wisely in Canada's best interests. On this basis the consumers have a poor claim. Low oil prices will encourage them to continue to use this source of energy more lavishly than its growing scarcity justifies. Alberta has a stronger claim to the extent that it follows two policies: it should collect, in royalties, most or all of the windfall revenue from rising oil prices so that these windfalls do not merely add to the net worth of foreign-owned corporations; and it should use the proceeds for investment in new oil or other energy sources for the future, and not simply for financing normal current provincial expenditures.

Otherwise, there is a case for replacement of the export tax by a federal sales tax on all crude oil produced in Canada to bring the domestic consumer prices up to realistic levels and to raise Canadian-owned revenue for investment in future energy supplies.



winter



whose choice?

opinions on the new direction
of advanced education in Alberta

by David C. Norwood



The reasons underlying the reorganization of the Department of Advanced Education early in 1973 can be summarized in four words: accountability to the public. Such accountability means simply that post-secondary institutions are being made responsible for their actions to the public via the government. And it is something the public has not given a great deal of thought to, except perhaps in a purely monetary sense: where does my money go? Is it used for a good purpose?

Still, this newly emphasized political concept of higher education is something which needs both public and institutional examination. The Alberta government's decision to concentrate control of and responsibility for university affairs in the hands of the Minister of Advanced Education is full of implications. Just what they are depends very much on who is discussing them.

To some people, the Department's reorganization portended disaster: an end to universities' traditional autonomy. To others it was a process of centralization. But rarely were these ends of the spectrum represented in such a pure way. Comments were punctuated with "if" and "however"; generally there was a "wait and see" attitude, especially on the part of administrators. And permeating almost all discussions was the new emphasis on accountability to the public.

"Quite frankly," said Jim Foster, Minister of Advanced Education, "I don't like Commission government. We really had three different authorities in the province [before the reorganization]: two Commissions and the Department. In spite of that, the public felt that my office was accountable to it, and I faced a serious credibility gap with both the public and my colleagues in the Legislature when I didn't have real control over the spending of money."

Mr. Foster was referring here to the fact that the government in the past gave a bulk sum to the Universities Commission, which then distributed the money to various sectors of the institutions.

On the other hand, former Minister of Education (in the Social Credit government), and now Leader of the Opposition in the Provincial Legislature, Bob Clark, stated categorically that the entire Department of Advanced Education "is an unnecessary evil." He referred to the great potential for overlap of facilities with the Department of Education, the great increase in size of bureaucracy and lack of coordination in a time of general belt-tightening.

"The danger inherent in the new system," said Mr. Clark, "is that without the Universities Commission the government is more susceptible to direct public pressure and political considerations. The old Commission absorbed these."

The concern felt by many of Alberta's academics about the reorganization was reflected in a document prepared by the Office of the President of The University of Calgary early in 1973. It was circulated at The University of Alberta by E.J. Rose, Chairman of the Department of English. Wide-ranging, blunt, and penetrating, the document places its questions and comments squarely in front of the Minister. "The reorganization of the Department of Advanced Education was undertaken in an unfortunate atmosphere of secrecy," it states. Boards of Governors and General Faculties Councils, charged by law with governing the institutions, were not consulted.

In all of this there is an element of self-fulfilling prophecy. Presumably the work was carried out in secret because it was deemed too highly sensitive and delicate. But the very secrecy has generated a climate of suspicion which was bound to raise doubts about the reorganization when its features were finally revealed.

The real worry of university officials was contained in a sentence a few paragraphs later. "Under the guise of an administrative shuffle," it said, "approval has been given to a plan which provides for a startling degree of political control over post-secondary education by the Department."

This sentiment was echoed by R.G. Baldwin, Dean of Arts at The University of Alberta, at a special meeting of the University Senate with Mr. Foster in April 1973. "Even though constrained by the Universities Act," Dr. Baldwin told Mr. Foster, "this government is taking unto itself political powers unrivalled in the civilized world."

Mr. Foster replied at the time, and again later, that in his opinion academics had more to fear politically from within the University—in terms of hirings, promotions and so on—than from outside. "We're not adversaries of the university," he said. "Power versus power situations exist between us, certainly, but they do not have to mean adversary situations."

Still, the concern remained: fear that the traditional decision-making autonomy of the university was being emasculated and placed in the hands of one individual, an individual dominated by political considerations, an individual who was not required to have any particular expertise in university affairs. In an age of increasing cynicism about politics, the transfer of control over such influential institutions as universities to political authorities was viewed by some as the virtual assumption of dictatorial powers.

Not all of the theoretical implications of the reorganization were abjectly negative. Bill Thorsell, Executive Officer of The University of Alberta Senate, feels that political input from the general public is an important fact of life for universities. "To a degree," he

commented, "political considerations are relevant in establishing policies for higher education. I think the issue of a Faculty of Law for The University of Calgary, for example, can be looked at in different ways—in this case it was an environmental, geographical, and academic decision which was definitely political, but not all bad."

"When we [the Senate] met with Mr. Foster last April 9," Bill continued, "some members, especially those representing the public, agreed that the government is responsible for public expenditure on universities, and that if the government can't do it properly, it's not fulfilling its mandate."

"It's quite apparent that the government felt that under democratic principles, it had to keep a closer eye on university affairs. This was something the academic members of the Senate didn't like, but the public members did."

Jim Foster agrees. "When I made the decision to recommend the abolition of the [Universities and Colleges] Commissions," he explained, "I felt that we needed to involve the public more in the running of affairs. So what we have now is a system that's organized along functional lines rather than institutional lines." He readily admits the existence of political inputs: "the creation of the University of Lethbridge was a political decision [of the Social Credit government]. Its continued existence *remains* a political decision. If economics or education alone were considered, this university might be closed. But you have to look at much more than that."

The individual perhaps most familiar with the policies and objectives of the Department of Advanced Education is its new Deputy Minister, Walter Worth. He has had considerable experience in the post-secondary education field; he was both professor and Vice-President (Planning and Development) at The University of Alberta, chairman of the Commission which examined Alberta's educational and societal future, and now, on the other side of the fence, Deputy Minister of a Department he helped formulate.

Dr. Worth is quick to point out that the Department of Advanced Education is responsible for almost one hundred different institutions, ranging in size from The University of Alberta's almost 20,000 students to institutions with less than a hundred. In addition, the Department oversees literally thousands of courses offered throughout the province by various institutions and organizations.

This statistical revelation is part of Dr. Worth's answer to comments on the rapidly increasing size of the Department. "If you include staff in the institutes we administer directly, such as the Northern and Southern Alberta Institutes of Technology," he said, "our total number of employees is more like 3,000, not 300 as some critics claim." He is also quick to point out that a great many of the Department's administrative staff have come from other government departments, notably those of Education and Agriculture.

Walter Worth is acutely aware of the fears expressed by his former colleagues in the universities, and he realizes that little can be done immediately to alleviate

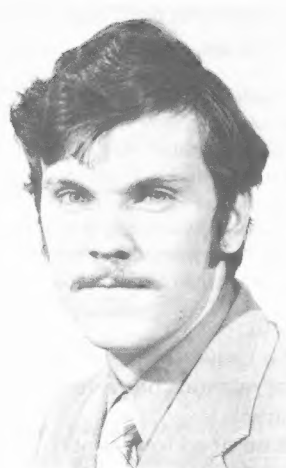


them. "I would hope that this Department will be judged on what it does, not on what people think it *should* do. And although there's been a great deal of talk of interference in autonomy, I can't think of a single case since I took this job where autonomy has been disturbed."

To many people, however, the fact that a *threat* to autonomy exists is disturbing enough. Peter Flynn, President of the Graduate Students' Association at The University of Alberta and a member of the University Board of Governors, is one such person. "Under the guise of obtaining public control of the universities," he said, "the government has chosen political control, and that's the feature I'm sorry to see. What the government could have done was take the old [Universities] Commission, revamp it, rename it, and make it more responsive to the general public."

Like many other people, Mr. Flynn believes in public accountability. "In the long run," he commented, "the public should—and does—determine university policies, but it shouldn't be tied up with politics. And here in Alberta I think that the present government has mixed up public control with political control."

Patrick Delaney, Academic Vice-President of the Student's Union, has similar thoughts on the new Department. "There's far too much power vested in the Minister right now," he commented. "We're becoming victims of politics in the universities." A confirmed believer in public input, Mr. Delaney adds an interesting



A spectrum of comments and opinions: (above, left to right), Walter Worth, Deputy Minister of Advanced Education; William Thorsell, Executive Officer, The University of Alberta Senate; Patrick Delaney, Vice-President (Academic), The University of Alberta Students' Union; Bob Clark, MLA Olds-Didsbury, Leader of the Official Opposition and former Minister of Education; Peter Flynn, President, Graduate Students' Association and member of the University Board of Governors; and Harry Gunning, incoming President of The University of Alberta. Left, Jim Foster, Alberta Minister of Advanced Education; right, Max Wyman, President, The University of Alberta.



qualification: "The public is going to have to accept some restrictions on its expectations from universities. They can't satisfy society's immediate needs; there's too much of a time lag. But I don't think the government realizes this."

Peter Flynn noted that the Graduate Students' Association has gone on record as opposing the reorganized Department of Advanced Education. "But given this new direction," he added, "we'll work within it for the good of all graduate students."

Mr. Flynn's statement reflects a general consensus at The University of Alberta. Harry Gunning, Chairman of the Department of Chemistry and incoming President of the University, is both concerned and "somewhat saddened" about the dissolution of the Universities Commission. But he has no intention of fearing direct control by the Minister of Advanced Education.

"Universities must not be dominated by fear," said Dr. Gunning. "I don't think governments want to destroy this university. Besides, one cannot be motivated by fear. If you're going to work with other people, you have to take a positive point of view, be cooperative, and realize that there are two sides to be examined. Both university and government should understand this."

Few people are more acutely aware of the need for the university to relate to the public than Dr. Gunning. When he assumes the office of President later this year, Dr. Gunning strongly intends to take the University to the

community, create an awareness of it and make its expertise useable. "If the government and the University can establish coordination and understanding in this direction," says Dr. Gunning, "it could lead to a new era in university-government relations."

Max Wyman, whose term as President of The University of Alberta expires in June, also says that fear is not the attitude to adopt when approaching the government. He emphasized that he believes in people, not systems. "A bad person can make a good system rotten, just as a good person can make a bad system work. I think the new Department can work as long as it has good people."

Dr. Wyman is a very strong believer in accountability to the public. "But that doesn't mean a line-by-line accountability," he cautioned. In a wide-ranging speech to the University's 1973 Fall Convocation, he queried accountability via the government:

most governments are assembling vast armies of bureaucrats, costing many millions of dollars, with the sole purpose of centralizing educational decision-making within the government itself. . . . Changes are now taking place at a frightful rate without proof being offered that centralized bureaucratic decision-making will be better than the decentralized form now being used. . . .

The need for strong central government control over universities should be carefully examined and resisted. It should not happen by default.

At the same time, Dr. Wyman sees the role of the

University changing—in the public eye—and feels that the University must adapt itself to this change.

Autonomy of action is an article of faith of an old mentality . . . that belongs to our past. Autonomy of action may well be equivalent to inaction. Autonomy for universities may well mean a freedom to die slowly, and surely this is a freedom not worth having. A university that continues to view itself as an island remote from the rest of society will surely die. The only chance for survival is to join the common market of other educational institutions. We cannot lead a nation that does not want to be led by us.

Just how accountable should the University be? And how should University-government relations be carried on? Should there be an intermediary?

Walter Worth feels that there is no need for any sort of intermediary or buffer. "I think the buffer is a myth, something outmoded. I don't think it ever worked."

Jim Foster says that "buffers are sometimes very convenient for governments because they can hide behind them. I would far sooner deal with problems on a face-to-face basis. I don't want a buffer for my protection. I don't mind being held responsible for any decision I make."

More than one reference has been made to the University's Board of Governors as a buffer. For example, in a submission to the Fall 1973 meeting of the University Senate, Calvin Lee, MLA, noted that one characteristic of the Department of Advanced Education's reorganization was "a recognition of the need for one official buffer organization between the universities and the government—the Board of Governors."

Minister Jim Foster echoed this statement. "We already have a buffer," he said, "it's the Board of Governors."

University President Max Wyman feels that this is totally unfeasible. "The Board should act in a *partisan* way in the interests of the University. If you want a buffer at all, you need an independent group composed of *all* interested parties."

Dr. Wyman's successor-apparent, Harry Gunning, is of like mind. "I can't see the Board functioning very effectively as a buffer," he said. "It's not an intermediary, and if it became one, I don't know what would replace it as the governing authority of the University."

Bill Thorsell, Senate Executive Officer, agrees. When asked about the potential of the Senate as an intermediary, he replied that such a role *might* be more feasible for the Senate than the Board.

The Department of Advanced Education does not intend to act in a completely arbitrary fashion. It is in the process of creating Advisory Committees to deal with its various sectors of responsibility. The public definitely will be represented on the Committees. "But," says Mr. Foster, "I am not prepared to give the Advisory Committees any executive powers, because then we'd be right back to Commission government."

Harry Gunning, who as President will be working frequently with the Minister, says that "in an important sense we don't need a buffer; we need understanding and cooperation." He is cautious but hopeful about the

Advisory Committees, and it is apparent that he will wait and see how effective they are.

Bob Clark, Leader of the Opposition, is sceptical. "Mr. Foster has spoken of forming Advisory Committees," he commented. "But they will have no legislative power and must make their recommendations to the Minister, who can act completely arbitrarily on them."

Much has been done to make the Committees more meaningful for students. "It took us some time to convince Mr. Foster to put students on the Advisory Committees and non-students on the Student Advisory Committee," said Patrick Delaney. "But I'm still unable to determine the nature of these committees. Whatever it is, they *could* work. Still, if the Minister rejects a recommendation, he should have to explain why—be responsible to someone."

"I don't know how seriously the government will take these committees," said Peter Flynn, "and this greatly concerns me. For example when we [the Graduate Students' Association] were finally given a chance to sit down and talk with the government, we found it extremely helpful. But it took us four or five months to get the meeting arranged. Could the same thing happen with the Committees? Will they find the government remote and hard to reach? And if the man changes, will the policies change?"

"My personal reaction," continued Peter, "is that this particular Department is not as accessible as it claims to be, and it acts as if it isn't interested in cooperating, in coming to a meeting of minds, but rather in imposing its will on post-secondary institutions. As a result it has encountered a lot of opposition that wasn't necessary and could have been avoided had the government presumed good faith."

With the introduction of the Advisory Committees, the need for any buffer at all is at least debatable, and a great many people are willing to try to work within the constraints already set. The single great fear which appears to have emerged in recent months is concern for the retention by the University of its ability to perceive and execute its own roles in an autonomous fashion. The fear of arbitrary political control is real, even if it is so far theoretical. Academics do not want to be manipulated to serve political rather than societal ends.

Accountability to the public is the cornerstone of the new political approach to higher education; within the universities the question being debated is just how much should the university tow the line? Universities probably mind far less towing the *public's* line than the line of a particular political party or government, but the distinction between them sometimes can be difficult to discern.

Bill Thorsell put it very nicely: "I think it's a very important philosophical concept—should the universities develop according to their own likes, or be more susceptible to influence from the public? And the government is saying that there should be more accountability to the public *via* the government, while the University is staying with its traditional concept of general accountability."

It comes down to a matter of choice. And no one yet knows—or is prepared to state unequivocally—exactly whose choice it is.

campus reporter

Among Our Alumni: Dale C. Thomson



An alumnus of The University of Alberta, Dale C. Thomson, BA '48, has assumed the newly created position of Vice-Principal (Planning) at McGill University in Montreal.

A native of Alberta, Dale Thomson was born in Fort Assiniboine in 1923. He served as a pilot with the Royal Canadian Air Force in the Second World War, and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. The years immediately following the war found him at The University of Alberta, from which he received his BA in 1948. He went on to the Université de Paris, earning a Diploma from its Institut d'Etudes Politiques in 1950, and a PhD the following year.

Dr. Thomson became involved in Canadian government and policies in a very direct way in 1953, when he became Secretary to Prime Minister Louis St. Laurent. The experience set a course for him; thereafter most of his time was devoted to Canadian studies. In 1960, two years after leaving his government position, Dr. Thomson published his first study of a Canadian political figure: *Alexander Mackenzie: Clear Grit*. In the same year he became professor of Political Science at the University of Montreal, and from 1963 to 1967 he was director of the department. In 1967 his biography of Louis St. Laurent appeared; it was translated into French the next year.

In 1969 Dr. Thomson took an extended

leave of absence from the University of Montreal and went to the School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University, in Washington, D.C. There he helped create and became the Director of the Center of Canadian Studies. One of the major objectives of the Center was—and is—to create a greater understanding of Canada throughout the United States and to foster understanding between the two countries through publications, conferences, and exchanges.

An almost immediate result of the Center's formation was the establishment of the Association for Canadian Studies in the United States, of which Dr. Thomson was founding director. Shortly after his arrival in Washington, he conducted a survey of some 1,500 American universities and colleges to determine the status of Canadian studies. About 90 percent of the institutions responded and, in Dr. Thomson's own words, "the results indicated that only 89 universities or colleges had courses on, or partly on, Canada in any discipline."

The Association's formative conference was held in 1971 and attracted over 100 participants. The second conference was held at the end of March, 1973; well over 300 persons attended, and membership in the Association had grown to several hundred. Its *Newsletter* then became a regular journal, *The American Review of Canadian Studies*.

Throughout this period, Dr. Thomson was much more than an administrator; he was teaching courses and writing. With Roger Swanson, another member of the Center, he wrote *Canadian Foreign Policy: Options and Perspectives* (1971); in addition there were numerous articles and contributions to other books. In 1972, according to a McGill University publication, Dr. Thomson visited McGill to research its part in *le fait anglais* in Quebec. "'Instead of writing a book,' Robert Bell [Principal of McGill] urged the political scientist, 'why don't you do something about it?'" Dr. Thomson recognized the challenge, and accepted the post of Vice-Principal (Planning), which he assumed on June 1, 1973.

The book, incidentally, was completed anyway. Edited by Dale Thomson, it is entitled *Quebec Society and Politics: Views from the Inside*.

A friend when the money is short

Two *Trails* ago, the Alumni Development Fund's projects were outlined. The Fund chose, last year and this, to provide funds for non-teaching projects which had suffered rather heavy budget cuts during the last two years: the Centre for the Study of Mental Retardation, the Boreal Institute for Northern Studies, the Librarian's Special Purchase Fund, and Graduate Student Travel Assistance, plus whatever is distributed by the Fund Development Advisory Committee for special needs as they arise.

One of these projects, Graduate Student Travel Assistance, enables students to carry out research elsewhere when necessary and to attend meetings of scholarly associations they might not otherwise be able to attend.

Why is this so important? A letter to Fund Development Officer Lorne MacPherson from a student in Comparative Literature explains.

May I thank you and the Alumni Development Fund for making me a grant of \$200 in August, to help defray the expenses involved in attending the VII Congress of the International Comparative Literature Association, held in Montreal and Ottawa.

The conference proved valuable not only in providing opportunities to see and hear major scholars in the field of Comparative Literature, but also in encouraging personal contacts among scholars of like interests. Given Edmonton's geographical position, such personal exchanges were especially appreciated. Apart from lectures and discussions in my own fields of interest, the conference offered daily symposia on the topic of the Status of Comparative Literature in the Universities. Participation in such open discussions is particularly fruitful in a discipline as new to university curricula as ours.

Among the scores of Congress delegates from all over the world, students were generally conspicuous by their absence. Your financial support ensured attendance of ten graduate students from The University of Alberta. Since ours is the only Canadian university to offer a full programme in Comparative Literature, it was apposite that a relatively large group attended the Congress and contributed notably to the week's activities.

(Signed) Ann Henderson-Nichol

alumni notes by A.G.Markle

'38 The Alumni Outstanding Achievement Award from the University of Minnesota has been presented to **Walter E. Harris**, BSc '38, MSc '39, for his accomplishments in teaching and research. '41 **Merrill Wolfe**, BA '41, President of Edmonton Motors, is this year's holder of *Time* Magazine's car dealer award. **R. Victor Henning**, BSc (Eng) '41, has been appointed Executive Director of the Banff School of Advanced Management and to the University's Faculty of Business Administration and Commerce. Mr. Henning's duties on campus will involve job placement of graduates at bachelor's and master's level, and he will act as a liaison officer between the faculty and employers of business graduates. **Norman A. Lawrence** BSc (Eng) '41, was executive committee chairman of the Sixth National Northern Development Conference held in Edmonton. '46 **G.W. Downie**, BSc (Eng) '46, will move from Kimberley to Trail to undertake a special assignment as Assistant General Manager for Cominco. '47 In recognition of his special contribution to the safety and health of employees in enterprises subject to federal jurisdiction, **W.A. (Al) Martin**, BSc (Eng) '47, Chief of the Accident Prevention Division, recently received a merit award from the Public Service Commission. **Myrtle Baxter Jack**, BEd '47, is serving as president of the 390-member Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette (California) branch of the American Association of University Women. **Patrick J. Doyle**, BSc (Arts) '47, MD '49, has been appointed Associate Professor of Surgery and Head of Otolaryngology at the University of British Columbia. '48 **David E. Burnham**, BSc '48, General Manager of CIL Paint Division, has been elected President of the Canadian Paint Manufacturers' Association for a second term. **I.A. Lesk**, BSc (Eng) '48, has been honored by Motorola Inc. for a patent disclosure filed jointly by himself and the company. The development deals with epitaxial growth of silican crystals used in semi-conductor manufacturing. '49 **Harry Wilson**, BA '49, LLB '50, has been appointed Edmonton City Solicitor, replacing **Alan F. Macdonald**, BA '36, LLB '37, who retired in October. '50 **Charles H. Weir**, BSc (Eng) '50, President of the Institute of Surveyors, was honored at the annual Achievement

Awards dinner sponsored by the Alberta provincial government. **E.J. Arnold**, BSc (Eng) '50, has been appointed Sales Manager with MacMillan Bloedel. '52 **Bruce Douglas Patterson**, BA '52, LLB '53, has been appointed provincial judge for the Grande Prairie area. '53 **Peter M. Oley**, BSc (Eng) '53, is Vice-President in charge of Petroleum Development in Western Canada for Merland Explorations Ltd. **Stephen A. Antoniuk**, BSc '53, MSc '54, has been appointed Vice-President of Exploration and Production for Amoco Europe in London. '61 **J. Douglas Dale**, BSc (Eng) '61, Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering at the University, is engaged in research which, when completed, may reduce the exhaust emissions from cars on cold winter mornings. **T.F. Cuthill**, BSc (Eng) '61, has been elected to the Board of Directors of Enx Resources Ltd. **Gordon A. Wallace**, BSc (Eng) '61, is now Buildings Project Manager for Poole Construction Ltd. in Edmonton. Teacher **Maria Flak**, BSc '61, MEd '71, President of the Ukrainian Language Association, has plans for setting up Ukrainian-language kindergartens. **Norman Hougau**, BSc (Arts) '61, BEd '66, has built a fibreglass sailboat which he and his wife will make their home when he retires from teaching. '66 **Robert A. Holloway**, BSc (Eng) '66, has been appointed Base Construction Engineering Officer at Canadian Forces Base, Moose Jaw and promoted to the rank of Major. '70 **The Reverend Gordon R. Haynes**, BA '70, is now serving at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church at Fort Macleod. The Man of the Year award of the Industrial Arts and Vocational Education Council of the Alberta Teachers' Association has been presented to **Walter Ilchuk**, BEd '70. '72 **Claude Armstrong**, BA '72, was one of six graduate design students taking part in a workshop at Japan's Kyushu Institute of Design. Following the workshop the students completed a three-week tour by attending the International Council of Societies of Industrial Design Congress in Kyoto. **Brian Plesuk**, BA (RecAdmin) '72, is helping to organize a reunion for graduates of the Recreational Administration program of the Faculty of Physical Education. It is tentatively planned as a camping weekend in May,

1974, in which whole families can participate at minimal cost. Brian will be pleased to give further information if contacted at 10821 126 Street, Edmonton. **Judith Hibberd**, MHSA '72, is Assistant Executive Director in charge of nursing at the Glenrose Hospital, Edmonton. **Sue Natrass**, BPE '72, has established a world record in trapshooting. She broke 145 out of 150 at the Mexico City Championships to erase the former women's record of 143 out of 150 held by Countess von Soden of Germany. **Philip Alexander (Sandy) Shandro**, BA '72, has been awarded one of the two Rhodes Scholarships for Quebec, where he is completing his masters degree in Canadian history. Sandy is the first Albertan of Ukrainian descent to receive a Rhodes Scholarship. '73 **Dave Rapson**, MEd '73, is now Assistant Registrar with the Council for National Academic Awards, in England. The Council validates degree courses submitted to it by institutions which do not have the power to award their own degrees.

Deaths

Vera Lee Stover, BSc (Arts) '19, MSc '21, for many years head librarian of the Research Council of Alberta. **Jessie McIntyre Scott**, BSc (Arts) '23, a member of the 1973 Golden Anniversary class and teacher for many years in Calgary. **Joseph Paul Ficht**, BSc (Ag) '24, MSc '26, a former staff member at the experimental station at Swift Current, Saskatchewan. **Michael B.B. Crockford**, BA '29, MSc '35, in Calgary. **Frank W. Rosher**, MD '31, in Saskatoon. **Marion Ades**, Dip (Nu) '33, in Edmonton. **A.A. (Peter) McAskle**, BCom '36, in Calgary. **Frank Trelford McClure**, BSc '38, Edmonton-born physicist and inventor of the United States Navy's satellite navigation system, in Washington. **Ronald W. McNeill**, BSc (Eng) '48, depreciation engineer for Alberta Government Telephones. **John Douglas Moore Miller**, MD '61, in a hunting accident.